

## Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 PM-07 SCI-06 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 NSF-04 EB-11 DRC-01 ( ISO ) W

----- 063987

R 202006Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2188

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, YBIO, PBRO, OCLR, VE, US

SUBJECT: RESEARCH VESSEL ATLANTIS II

REF: STATE 242481, CARACAS 10582

1. POL COUNSELOR CALLED DECEMBER 20 ON LIC. JESUS ELIAS OF FONOFF DEPARTMENT OF FRONTIERS, AT LATTER'S REQUEST, TO DISCUSS DECEMBER 8 INCIDENT INVOLVING ATLANTIS II. POL COUNSELOR REVIEWED INCIDENT, EMPHASIZING THAT VESSEL IS PRIVATELY-OWNED AND NOT SUBJECT TO USG CONTROL, THAT EMBASSY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ITS PRESENCE OFF VENEZUELA UNTIL INFORMED OF INCIDENT BY DEPARTMENT, AND THAT VESSEL WAS ENGAGED IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR CICAR, A MULTILATERAL UNDERTAKING UNDER UNESCO BENEFICIAL TO ALL NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN, INCLUDING VENEZUELA. POL COUNSELOR EXPRESSED REGRET THAT INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED AND DETERMINATION TO PREVENT RECURRENCE.

2. ELIAS STATED GOV WAS ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH THIS ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND THAT THE GOV IS NOT TRYING TO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR US RESEARCH VESSELS BUT RATHER TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID GOV'S CONCERN CENTERED ABOUT FACTS VESSEL WAS "OFF VENEZUELAN COAST" WITHOUT GOV KNOWLEDGE JUST WHEN VENEZUELAN NAVY WAS ON ALERT BECAUSE OF DECEMBER 9 NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND THAT WOODS HOLE TELEGRAM TO FONMIN  
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CALVANI (STATE 242481), WHICH ELIAS REGARDED AS A COMMUNICATION

OUTSIDE PROPER CHANNELS, OFFERED GOV PARTICIPATION IN ATLANTIS II WORK ONLY AFTER THE INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED. ELIAS SAID FONMIN HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO PREPARE A REPLY TO THE WOODS HOLE TELEGRAM AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF EMBASSY COULD FORWARD ITS CONTENTS TO WOODS HOLE VIA THE DEPARTMENT.

3. AT NO TIME IN THE CONVERSATION, WHICH WAS ENTIRELY CORDIAL THROUGHOUT, WAS ANY MENTION MADE BY EITHER SIDE OF ANY QUESTIONS RELATING TO VENEZUELA'S TERRITORIAL WATERS OR CONTINENTAL SHELF.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT HENCEFORTH THIS EMBASSY BE ADVISED, AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE, OF US OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH PROJECTS NEAR VENEZUELAN WATERS (1) IN ORDER THAT WE MAY PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH TIMELY COMMENT AS TO LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH COULD AFFECT THEM, AND (2) SO THAT WE CAN INFORMALLY ADVISE THE GOV SO AS TO ENSURE ITS CONTINUED COOPERATION IN FUTURE WITH US OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH PROJECTS.  
MCCLINTOCK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 20 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** RESEARCH VESSEL ATLANTIS II  
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